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COOPERATING



STATES RELATIONS SERVICE
OFFICE OF EXTENSION WORK NORTH AND WEST
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THIS LOOKS GOOD

A COUNTY AGENT IN IOWA RAISES LADY BUGS

"Lady Bug, lady Bug, --
Fly away home;
Your house is on fire,
Your children will burn."

The following experiment is given as an example of the resourcefulness which must characterize a county agent to a high degree. When ordinary and approved methods fail the emergency must be met, and at least a county agent must be willing to "try anything once."

In Keokuk, Iowa, there is a considerable area devoted to the production of cucumbers for the pickling stations and pickle works at Burlington. Prof. Fitch, entomologist from the Iowa State College, devoted a considerable portion of the summer to work with the growers in control of the striped beetle and the cucumber louse, with great success so far as the striped beetle was concerned, but the louse seemed able to resist all of the various sprays used, and in desperation an unusual method was tried on one field. In reporting the work, County Agent W. K. Allen, says:

"It is known that the Lady Bug feeds entirely on plant lice, hence it was thought to try the scheme of growing crops beside the cucumbers which would be lousy before the cucumbers and other crops that would be infested with lice after the cucumber season. The object of these trap crops was to furnish a large amount of food for the Lady Bugs in the hope that they would congregate there in large numbers, so that when the cucumber lice came along there would be enough Lady Bugs present to keep down the lice. The crops which were to be lousy after the cucumbers were for the purpose of furnishing food for the Lady Bugs up until frost set in and so induce the Lady Bug to winter in the field.

The results of this experiment were very gratifying. There were lice in this field on the 9th of July, but the vines continued productive until after the first of September. Ordinarily fields do not last over two weeks after the lice have been discovered. We hope to be able to carry this experiment further another year and test more completely the effectiveness of planting trap crops as a method of controlling cucumber lice."

"The fleas that do us tease
Have other fleas that bite 'em;
And these in turn have other fleas
And so on ad infinitum."

County Agent Section
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